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Replace your Medicare card online

By Chris Jenkins

The weather has taken a turn for the better and you might be getting ready for a summer vacation. Maybe you'll be at your home away from home for a month or two. Perhaps you plan to pack your clothes and a few books you've been meaning to read. But don't forget another important item you may need: your Medicare card.

If you depend on Medicare for your regular medical services, you might need that card this summer. But what if you can't find your card? What if it's been lost or damaged and you need a new one?

Our online Medicare card replacement page is a fast, easy and secure way to get your new Medicare card sent to your

home. Go to our website at www.socialsecurity.gov and select "Replace your lost, stolen or damaged Medicare card." The link is on the left side of the page, under "What you can do online." Fill out the requested information and you'll get your new Medicare card within 30 days; it will be mailed to your address on record. If you need immediate proof of your Medicare coverage, visit your local Social Security office.

If you recently changed your mailing address and haven't notified Social Security of the change, you need to change your address before requesting a replacement card.

You can report your change of address by using our online services as well. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/coa to report a

change. You'll need to provide your old address and new address, including zip codes. You also need to provide a phone number in case we need to con-

tact you about the change. You'll receive a confirmation notice on your computer screen telling you the effective date of the address change. Be sure to wait until the effective date to request your replacement Medicare card.

You can always rest assured that doing business with Social Security online is easy, fast and secure. To learn more about other things you can do on our website, visit www.socialsecurity.gov. You can also call us at 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778) or visit the local office.

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